(b) if so, the total Km. of Indo-Bangla border fenced in its second phase work;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of the fencing work; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to speed up the task and to complete it within time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) to (d) Under Phase-II of the fencing work along Indo-Bangladesh Border, a total of 255 Kms. of fence has been completed. The progress of work has been slow due to the following reasons :

(i) Need to modify the design of fencing for low-lying area to avoid submergence of the fencing.

(ii) To provide for double row of fencing with concertina coil one over the other instead of one layer of concertina coil as single row as per Group of Ministers' (GoM) recommendations.

(iii) Need to modify design of fencing for hilly terrain of Tripura to make it more effective.

(iv) Delay in forest clearance as well as delay in acquisition of land.

All these issues have been resolved in consultation with the concerned agencies. Accordingly, designs of fencing have been modified and the work is being speeded up. For expeditious and completion of work ahead of schedule, the Government have also decided to engage more agencies for fencing work on Indo-Bangladesh Border.

Rapid power development and reform programme

†*644. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had initiated the Rapid Power Development and Reform Programme to improve the existing power scenario in the country;

(b) if so, when it was initiated;

(c) the total number of projects of power sector under construction when the above programme was initiated along with production capacity thereof; and

(d) the total amount spent on the construction of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) and (b) Government initiated in February, 2001 the Accelerated Power

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Development Programme (APDP) now known as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). Under this programme, projects for bringing about a turn around in identified distribution circles by reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses and improving the quality of power supply are being financed. In addition, actual reduction of the gap between revenue and cost in the State is to be incentivised through grants.

(c) and (d) 86 power projects (40 thermal and 46 hydro) of 15,626 MW capacity were under execution during 2000-01. An amount of Rs. 42,026.17 crore approx. had been spent on these projects upto 3/2001.

Construction of roads in Himachal Pradesh under PMGSY

†*645. SHRI ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the length of road line for which Himachal Pradesh Government have provided funds for the construction thereof under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana during 2001-2002;

(b) whether all the roads have appeared to be motorable and if not, the names of the roads remaining incomplete and time frame for the completion thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take action against the contractors for their slow pace of working; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The road length of the works cleared and funds released for the years 2001-02 & 2002-03 (Phase-II) for Himachal Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is about 935 kms. Out of the 245 road works cleared, 3 have been completed and the construction of 242 road works is in progress, as reported by the State Government. The names of roads under construction in Himachal Pradesh are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The road works of 2001-02 were cleared in December, 2001. In a Hill State, a period of 15-18 months (2 working seasons) is provided for completion

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.